

COUNCIL OF STATES

Thursday, 29th April 1954

The Council met at a quarter past eight of the clock, MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri S. C. Mazumdar (West Bengal)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BOUNDARY DEMARCATION BETWEEN U.P. AND BIHAR

*506. SHRI M. VALIULLA: Will the Minister for HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have submitted to Government lists of villages for the demarcation of their boundaries on account of the frequent changes in the course of the river Ganges;

(b) for how long this dispute as to boundaries has been subsisting;

(c) what are the causes which delayed an earlier settlement of this dispute; and

(d) what action Government have now taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU):
(a) No.

(b), (c) and (d). In March 1950, the Government of Bihar in consultation with the Government of Uttar Pradesh proposed that a boundary commission should be appointed by the Government of India for fixation of boundaries between the two States. However, when arrangements for the appointment of such a commission were almost complete, the Governments of the two States started preliminary investigations as to the possibility of resolution of differences by direct negotiations and agreed conclusions. The
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Government of India have not heard anything further from the States Government in the matter.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know Sir, how many villages are concerned?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I have no idea.

SHRI M. VALIULLA: May I know the reasons for the disputes?

DR. K. N. KATJU: These disputes, Sir, are hundred years old. The rivers Ghagra and the Ganges are the traditional boundary line between these two States, the mid-stream and the mid-stream, and at the end of every rainy season—as you know, Sir, the rivers are very fickle-minded—sometimes the Ganges flows here and sometimes there and the result is that one year villages on this side of the Ganges form part of U.P. and if the Ganges flows on the other side, the villages form part of Bihar. That is the reason, Sir.

DR. P. C. MITRA: When both the States submitted the lists then, what difficulties stood in the way of a quick settlement in the matter?

DR. K. N. KATJU: Lists of what?

DR. P. C. MITRA: Lists of villages.

DR. K. N. KATJU: I really do not know. I think we ought to welcome the decision of the two Governments now. They originally asked for the appointment of a boundary commission—and a boundary commission, you know, Sir, is a very complicated matter—and when arrangements for such a commission were almost complete, those two Governments said, "We will settle it ourselves amicably". I said, "Very well" and I wished them good luck.

DR. P. C. MITRA: Have they submitted a statement that the matter has been amicably settled?

DR. K. N. KATJU: I am not concerned with that matter.

SHRI S. N. MAZUMDAR: May I know, Sir, whether the basis of this